United Nations S/2002/1237

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 November 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 8 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 6 November 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the recent return of the Kuwaiti archives in which high-level delegations from Iraq and Kuwait took part in the presence and under the supervision of observers from the United Nations and the League of Arab States (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the agreement on modalities for the return of the Kuwaiti archives that we reached at the round of dialogue held in Vienna on 4 and 5 July 2002 and to resolution 14/227 adopted by the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth regular session, held in Beirut in March 2002, concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and, inter alia, urging the return of Kuwaiti property in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. I am glad to inform you that the handover of the Kuwaiti archives was completed at Abdali, Kuwait, by high-level delegations from Iraq and Kuwait in the presence and under the supervision of observers from the United Nations and the League of Arab States. The archives handed over consisted of the following items:

1. State Security Intelligence (Mabahith Amn al-Dawlah) — 69 boxes, containing 182,133 documents;

2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs — 126 boxes, containing 666,762 documents;

3. Ministry of the Interior — 196 boxes, containing 1,032,794 documents;

4. Documentation on the Iraq-Kuwait boundaries — two boxes, containing 5,879 documents;

5. Ministry of Oil — 19 boxes, containing 83,156 documents;

6. Ministry of Defence — three boxes, containing 1,540 documents;

7. Kuwait Citizenship Department — 1,099 bags, containing 357,825 files;

8. Kuwaiti citizenship certificates — 103 bags, containing 309,000 certificates;

9. Kuwaiti citizenship records — 251 registers;

10. Kuwait Department of Museums and Antiquities — one file, containing 123 documents;

11. The register of Kuwaiti civil aircraft;

12. Ministry of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait National Bank and Kuwaiti newspapers — 2,806 microfilms.

There were 23 handover schedules documenting the return of the Kuwaiti archives, and they were signed by representatives of all four parties concerned, namely Iraq, Kuwait, the United Nations and the League of Arab States. It was recorded in the schedules that, on its first cursory examination of the files of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kuwaiti delegation found five files pertaining to the Office of the Amir, containing 1,022 documents, and two files pertaining to the Council of Ministers, containing 195 documents, and that, in accordance with the assurances given by Iraq at the commencement of the restitution of property in 1991, any Kuwaiti items or documents that were found subsequently would be returned in the same way.

The return of the archives was carried out in an atmosphere of cooperation and with a positive spirit of mutual understanding on all sides, especially among the members of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations, and this helped make it possible to complete the task in a short period of time. We are glad to take this opportunity to address to you and to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States our thanks and appreciation for the creditable efforts you made to facilitate the return of the Kuwaiti archives. We are also grateful for the sincere and sustained efforts of the delegations of the United Nations, led by Mr. J. Richard Foran, and of the League of Arab States, led by Minister Plenipotentiary Muhammad Fu'ad Sirri, and for the spirit of cooperation they demonstrated with a view to completing the return of the archives in the proper manner.

Iraq's implementation of its agreement with you and its compliance with the wish expressed by the Arab States at the March 2002 Beirut summit are part and parcel of the endeavours it is making to strengthen Arab solidarity and to restore relations between Iraq and Kuwait, as fraternal States, to normal. Iraq will pursue its sedulous efforts in this regard.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq